

Barrington Conservation Commission
Minutes for Tuesday, May 14, 2013, Meeting
School Committee Room, Barrington Town Hall

In attendance: Cyndee Fuller, Ed Ionata, Doug Materne, David Boyes, Joseph Roberts, Lisa Merck.

Call to Order and Minutes: Cyndee called the meeting to order at 7:35. The April meeting minutes were reviewed and Cyndee recommended a clarification to the item regarding a parcel of land that the Barrington Land Conservation Trust is interesting in acquiring, noting that she would contact DEM to see if there is file on the property. Doug made a motion to approve seconded by Cyndee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Zoning Board/New Applications:

Application #3715 Joseph Francis, 175 Poppasquash Road, Bristol, RI 02809 , applicant and owner for permission to construct a 26'x46' single family home and a 24'x24' attached garage at Washington Road (vacant lot) Assessor's Plat 14 Lot 407, R-25 District requiring dimensional relief for front yard setback and being within 100 feet of a wetlands/waterbody, and for being within 100 feet of wetlands overlay district.

This reissuance of a previous application from 2006 was discussed. It was noted that the previous recommendation to the Zoning Board was to deny the application because the proposed building was within 20 feet of the wetland and that a smaller footprint, closer to the road would mitigate impacts to the wetland and site. The earlier application was approved by the planning board with a condition that the house footprint be reduced by 2 feet.

The discussion focused on the fact that the same impacts determined in the original application remained in the current application. A spokesperson from the Barrington Land Conservation Trust voiced concerns regarding the potential impacts to the adjacent Tall Cedars preserve.

Joseph Roberts made a motion to recommend denial of the application because the proposed structure is too close to wetland edge (~20 feet) and does not meet Town or State wetland setback requirements, and the addition of structure to currently vacant lot has high potential to impede or alter drainage across subject lot and adjoining lots. It was noted that the Wetland delineation is old (~8 years old) and requires updating and there were questions exist regarding the edge of the wetland not following topography of site and that the site is viewed as unsuitable for development.

David Boyes seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
David will attend the Zoning Board Meeting.

Town Council Update:

June Speakman reported that there were no critical issues for the Commission from the last Town Council meeting. Saint Andrews School is proposing the construction of some new tennis courts that will require tree removal and some concerns have been raised by residents living on Belvedere Avenue regarding parking along the street by those using the public waterfront access point at the end of the street. June also noted that a policy is being developed by the Parks and Recreation Commission to define a process for approving monuments and memorials on Town Land and that a new development group is interested in the Zion Bible property.

A discussion was held with June about recent Rhode Island legislative filings in both the House and the Senate (H5703, S0544, S0672 and H5425) that propose to remove the exclusion of slope in determining lot size and minimum lot size, and to limit the extent of local wetlands ordinances to those provided under state law. Doug Materne made a motion to request that the Town Council formally oppose these legislative filings and any similar filings weakening the ability of towns to enact zoning and environmental regulation. David Boyes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Planning Board: Palmer Pointe Proposal

The Commission discussed the proposed Palmer Pointe development to consolidate comments to the Planning Board. Potential pesticide contamination, the need for National Environmental Policy Act Federal review, the presence of prime farmland, traffic and proximity to wetlands were raised as issues. Cyndee Fuller will summarize the concerns and prepare a comment letter to the Planning Board on behalf of the Commission.

Plat 2 Lot 154 Bay Spring Realty

Cyndee received a request for a variance for some upcoming remedial/investigative work on this site from Resource Controls, Inc. The proponent was informed that the activities are not likely to require Zoning relief and was referred to the Building Official, Bob Speaker. The proponents did not appear at the meeting.

Commissioner Tasks:

Ed: July is the anticipated timeframe for a proposal on wetland code update request to the Town Council.

Joseph: Plans are being finalized for a September 2013 opinion survey on the Reusable Bag Initiative.

Leslie: Speakers Program has been scheduled for the Fall with dates set and speakers committed.

Doug: Police Cove, Rayner Wildlife Refuge/Nockum Hill – Doug reported no further action on Nockum Hill and that a selection process for public art at Police Cove is underway.

Cyndee: Vitullo/Barrington Community Garden – a contract has been signed for the demolition of the barn within 6 months, after which plot development will begin

David: Phase II/MS4. No progress to report

Lisa: Town Landfills. No progress to report

Miscellaneous:

Cyndee contacted Phil Hervey, Town Planner to determine if a GIS-based list of properties adjacent to wetland areas could be generated. She is awaiting a reply.

Adjournment:

Cyndee moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25. Lisa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Ionata, Acting Secretary

[Minor edit by CFuller 7/11/13 to address commission review and approval of minutes]